

# Veil to Voyage

## THE ULTIMATE WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

[vlapp0r.github.io/veiltovoyage](https://vlapp0r.github.io/veiltovoyage)

◆ *Print this checklist and keep it somewhere visible — or save it to your phone. Work through each phase in order. Add your vendor names and dates in the margin as you book.*

### PHASE 1 — 18 TO 12 MONTHS BEFORE · The Foundation

#### *Budget & Big Decisions*

- Set your total wedding budget — include a 10% buffer for surprises  
*Tip: Decide on your number before telling vendors. They price to your budget.*
- Decide on approximate guest count  
*This drives venue size, catering, and invite quantities.*
- Choose your wedding date (or 2–3 backup options)
- Decide on wedding style / vibe — formal, garden, destination, intimate

#### *Venue & Key Vendors*

- Research and tour ceremony venues  
*Popular venues book 12–18 months out — start here first.*
- Research and tour reception venues (or confirm combined venue)
- Book your venue — sign contract and pay deposit
- Start researching photographers — review portfolios  
*Photographers book out fast. This is your #1 priority after venue.*
- Book your photographer
- Book your videographer (if desired)
- Book your officiant

#### *Getting Organised*

- Create a dedicated wedding email address  
*Keeps all vendor communication in one place.*
- Start a shared planning doc or spreadsheet with your partner
- Choose your wedding party — ask them formally
- Begin engagement photo session (optional but great for save the dates)

### PHASE 2 — 12 TO 9 MONTHS BEFORE · Locking It In

#### *Style & Attire*

- Begin wedding dress shopping  
*Allow 4–6 months for ordering + alterations. Start now.*
- Research bridesmaids dress styles and colours

- Begin researching suits / formal wear for the wedding party

### *Food, Music & More Vendors*

- Book your caterer (if not included with venue)
- Book your DJ or band — see them perform live if possible
- Book your florist — share mood board and colour palette
- Book hair and makeup artists

*Trial run is worth scheduling 2–3 months before the date.*

- Research and book a wedding planner or day-of coordinator (optional)

### *Registry & Honeymoon*

- Set up your wedding registry

*Zola, The Knot, or Amazon. You can add items from any store.*

- Set up a honeymoon fund (optional) — Honeyfund or HoneymoonWishes

*Great alternative or addition to a traditional registry.*

- Start researching honeymoon destinations
- Check passport expiry dates — renew now if needed

*Renewal can take 6–8 weeks.*

## PHASE 3 — 9 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE · The Details

### *Invitations & Communication*

- Design and order save the dates

*Send 8–12 months out for destination weddings, 6 months for local.*

- Mail save the dates
- Begin designing formal invitations
- Create your wedding website

*Include venue details, registry links, accommodation suggestions.*

- Finalise your guest list with full addresses

### *Planning Details*

- Plan ceremony structure with your officiant
- Book rehearsal dinner venue
- Arrange out-of-town guest accommodation block (hotel room block)
- Book honeymoon — flights and accommodation

*Prices rise as date approaches. Book now.*

- Research travel insurance for honeymoon
- Order wedding cake or desserts

## PHASE 4 — 6 TO 4 MONTHS BEFORE · Getting Real

### *Invitations & RSVPs*

- Mail formal invitations — include RSVP card or link

*Give guests 4–6 weeks to respond.*

- Set RSVP deadline (6–8 weeks before the wedding)
- Track RSVPs as they arrive

### *Attire & Beauty*

- Schedule first wedding dress fitting
  - Order bridesmaids dresses
- Allow time for alterations — order 4–5 months out.*
- Order or rent suits / formal wear
  - Purchase wedding shoes — start wearing them around the house
  - Schedule hair and makeup trial

### *Logistics*

- Book transportation — limo, shuttle, vintage car
- Plan décor details — centrepieces, table settings, signage
- Order wedding favours
- Order stationery — menus, place cards, programmes
- Create seating chart draft

## PHASE 5 — 4 TO 2 MONTHS BEFORE · Final Stretch

- Follow up on outstanding RSVPs
  - Finalise guest count — give to venue and caterer
- Most venues need a final count 2–4 weeks out.*
- Finalise seating chart
  - Purchase wedding party gifts
  - Purchase gifts for parents
  - Write your vows (if personal vows)
  - Confirm all vendors in writing — times, locations, final details
  - Prepare vendor payment schedule and tip envelopes

*Cash tips in labelled envelopes make day-of handoff easy.*

- Apply for marriage licence — check local requirements
- Some areas require 30+ days notice.*
- Schedule second dress fitting
  - Create detailed day-of timeline
  - Share timeline with all vendors and wedding party

## PHASE 6 — FINAL MONTH · Almost There

### *Two to Four Weeks Out*

- Final dress fitting and pick up
- Finalise rehearsal dinner details
- Give final guest count to all food vendors
- Confirm honeymoon bookings — print or download confirmation emails
- Pack for honeymoon — use our packing list at [veiltovoyage.com](http://veiltovoyage.com)

- Delegate day-of tasks to trusted family/friends
- Prepare an emergency kit — safety pins, stain remover, pain killers, lip balm

### *Final Week*

- Pick up any rental items
- Confirm all vendors one final time
- Deliver tip envelopes to coordinator or trusted person
- Attend rehearsal — walk through ceremony
- Enjoy your rehearsal dinner
- Get a good sleep — seriously

### *Wedding Day*

- Eat breakfast  
*You will not want to have skipped this.*
- Give rings to best man / maid of honour for safekeeping
- Do a final venue walk-through with coordinator
- Take it all in — it goes fast



## AFTER THE WEDDING - Newlywed Admin

- Send thank-you cards — aim for within 3 months  
*Start the list on the honeymoon while it's fresh.*
- Return any rental items
- Preserve your wedding dress (optional)
- Order prints or albums from your photographer
- Change name on legal documents (if applicable)
- Update beneficiaries on insurance / financial accounts
- Relive the day — rewatch your video, revisit photos